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Letter dated 4 September 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement made by the Chairman of the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan in connection with the so-called "local elections" in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated urgently as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 4 September 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 5 September 2001 "elections" are planned to be held for local self-government bodies in the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic", established in the mountainous part of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, the region occupied as a result of aggression perpetrated by the armed forces of Armenia.

The "elections" to local self-government bodies aimed at "legitimizing" the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic", which has been forcibly established by the armed forces of Armenia in the occupied areas of the Republic of Azerbaijan, accompanied by ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanians, and not been recognized by any State in the world, contradict the principles and norms of international law, the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as commonly accepted moral norms and values, and hence are null and void and do not have any legal consequences.

Holding of the mentioned "elections" is another unsuccessful attempt to fix the results of the occupation by the Republic of Armenia of 20 per cent of the Azerbaijani lands and the expulsion of Azerbaijanians from these lands.

This is another act of political provocation that flagrantly violates the fundamental civil rights of 50,000 Azerbaijanians exiled from the mountainous part of Karabakh, shows once again that the Armenian separatists are not willing to give up their intention to hamper the efforts towards the peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and are prepared to do anything to preclude the securing of peace in the region.

The "elections" to local self-government bodies to be held in the mountainous part of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan are nothing but a political show and will negatively affect the ongoing negotiations on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh problem, in particular the mediation efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group.

The Republic of Azerbaijan will never reconcile itself to the overt occupation and annexation of a part of its territory and will ensure the restoration of its territorial integrity using all available means.

Any legitimate public authorities, including local self-government bodies in the mountainous part of Karabakh, may be established only after the elimination of the results of the aggression of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, reinstatement of the sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan over all its territory, return of the Azerbaijani refugees to their homelands and restoration of the pre-occupation ethnic picture.

The international community should not remain indifferent to the fact that the occupation forces are flagrantly defying the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In this regard, appreciating the firm and fair position taken by the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein, Mr. Ernst Walch, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Lord Russell-Johnston, and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Walter Schwimmer, who have considered as unlawful the "local self-government elections" planned in the

mountainous part of the Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I call on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Commonwealth of Independent States Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Union of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference — the organizations to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a member, as well as the European Parliament and the North Atlantic Assembly, with which the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan is maintaining close cooperation, to condemn the act of political provocation pursued in the occupied part of our independent State and to support the just cause of Azerbaijan.

Baku, 31 August 2001